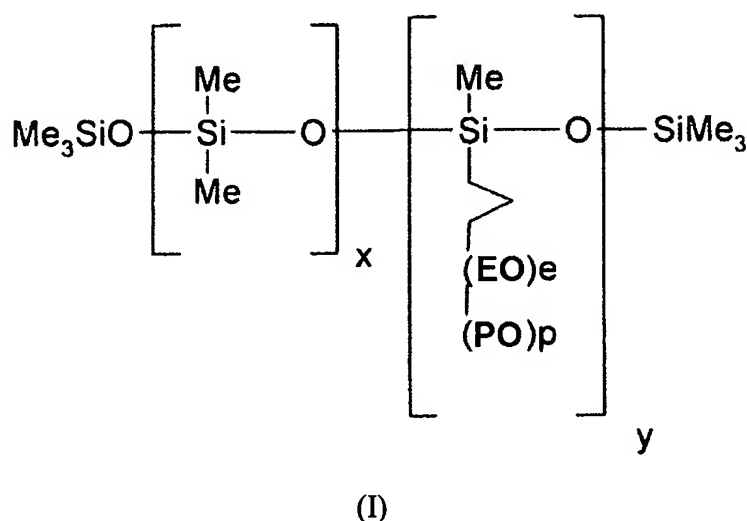


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Coating composition, comprising:

- an aqueous dispersion of film-forming polymer, and
- a sufficient amount of a silicone polyether satisfying formula (I) below:



~~the terminal groups of the ethylene oxide or propylene oxide being OR groups~~
~~in which: where~~

EO signifies -O-CH₂-CH₂- ,

PO signifies -O-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂- ,

where EO and PO have a terminal Group OR, where R represents a hydrogen atom, or a linear
or branched alkyl radical having from 1 to 22 carbon atoms, ~~and preferably having from 1 to 4~~
~~carbon atoms,~~

x is a number between 5 and 50,

y is a number between 3 and 10,

e is a number between 10 and 30,

p is a number between 0 and 10,

it being understood that:

x/y is less than 10, ~~and preferably less than or equal to 8,~~

e + p is less than 30, ~~and preferably less than or equal to 20,~~

e/p is greater than 1, ~~and preferably greater than or equal to 4, and~~

x + y is less than 60, ~~and preferably less than 40.~~

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Composition according to Claim 1, characterized in that~~ The composition of claim 1 wherein the silicone polyether is chosen from the silicone polyethers of formula (I) ~~satisfying the following conditions and wherein:~~

x = 9.5, y = 3.5, e = 11.5 and p = 2.5, and R is a hydrogen atom; or

x = 14, y = 4, e = 17 and p = 1, and R is a hydrogen atom; or

x = 48, y = 6, e = 15 and p = 5, and R is a hydrogen atom.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Composition according to either of Claims 1 and 2, characterized in that~~ The composition of claim 1 wherein the aqueous dispersion of film-forming polymer (latex) comprises at least one water-insoluble polymer obtained by polymerization of monomers chosen from: —vinyl esters, ~~and more particularly vinyl acetate;~~ —alkyl acrylates and methacrylates in ~~which the alkyl group contains~~ having an alkyl group containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, ~~for example methyl acrylates and methacrylates, ethyl acrylates and methacrylates, n-butyl acrylates and methacrylates, and 2-ethylhexyl acrylates and methacrylates;~~ —vinylaromatic monomers, ~~in particular styrene; wherein the it being possible for these monomers to be~~ maybe copolymerized with one another or with other ethylenically unsaturated monomers copolymerizable with vinyl acetate ~~and/or acrylic esters and/or styrene, therewith~~ so as to form homopolymers, copolymers or terpolymers.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Composition according to Claim 3, characterized in that~~ The composition of claim 3 wherein the other ethylenically unsaturated monomers ~~copolymerizable with vinyl acetate and/or acrylic esters and/or styrene are chosen from~~ are selected from the group consisting of ethylene and other olefins, ~~such as isobutene;~~ vinyl esters of branched or unbranched, saturated monocarboxylic acids having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms, ~~such as vinyl propionate, vinyl "Versatate" (registered trade mark for esters of C₉-C₁₁ branched acids), vinyl pivalate, vinyl laurate;~~ esters of unsaturated mono- or dicarboxylic acids having 3 to 6 carbon atoms with alkanols having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, ~~such as methyl, ethyl, butyl or ethylhexyl maleates, or methyl, ethyl, butyl or ethylhexyl fumarates;~~ vinylaromatic monomers, ~~such as methylstyrenes or vinyltoluenes;~~ vinyl halides ~~such as vinyl chloride, vinylidene chloride,~~ diolefins, ~~particularly butadiene;~~ (meth)acrylic acid (meth)allyl esters, (meth)allyl esters of

maleic acid mono- and diesters, fumaric acid mono- and diesters and itaconic acid mono- and diesters, ~~and also~~ alkene derivatives of acrylic and methacrylic acid amides, ~~such as N-methallyl maleimide and combinations thereof.~~

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Composition according to either of Claims 3 and 4, characterized in that~~
The composition of claim 3 wherein the aqueous dispersion of film-forming polymer (~~latex~~) comprises at least one water-insoluble polymer obtained by polymerization of monomers chosen from alkyl acrylates and methacrylates in which the alkyl group contains from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, ~~for example methyl, ethyl, n-butyl or 2-ethylhexyl acrylates and methacrylates.~~

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Composition according to one of Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that~~
The composition of claim 1 wherein the sufficient amount of silicone polyether of formula (I) added to the aqueous dispersion of film-forming polymer (~~latex~~) is between 0.1 and 10% by weight of dry silicone polyether of formula (I) relative to the weight of dry ~~latex~~ film forming polymer.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Composition according to Claim 6, characterized in that~~ The composition of claim 6 wherein the sufficient amount of silicone polyether of formula (I) added to the aqueous dispersion of film-forming polymer (~~latex~~) is between 0.1 and 5% by weight of dry silicone polyether of formula (I) relative to the weight of dry ~~latex~~ film forming polymer.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ A process for rendering a hydrophobic support hydrophilic ~~in a long-lasting manner, characterized in that~~ comprising applying a sufficient amount of a coating composition ~~according to one of Claims 1 to 7 is applied to the~~ coating composition of claim 1 to a surface of the hydrophobic support.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Process according to Claim 8, characterized in that~~ The process of claim 8 wherein the hydrophobic support has a contact angle measured by the wetting angle method of greater than 70°.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Process according to either of Claims 8 and 9, characterized in that~~ The process of claim 8 wherein the hydrophobic support is chosen from a material selected from the group consisting of glass, metals, rigid polypropylene, wood treated with a varnish, or and a cement-based material pretreated with a hydrophobic adhesion primer.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Process according to Claim 10, characterized in that~~ The process of claim 10 wherein the hydrophobic adhesion primer is a composition of film-forming polymer as an aqueous dispersion or that is solvent-based.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Process according to either of Claims 10 and 11, characterized in that~~ The process of claim 10 wherein the adhesion primer is the aqueous dispersion of film-forming polymer used in the coating composition of claim 1.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Hydrophobic~~ A hydrophobic support whose surface is having a surface which is coated at least in part with a film resulting from the drying of a the composition of claim 1 comprising an aqueous emulsion of film-forming polymer and at least one silicone polyether of formula (I) according to one of Claims 1 to 7.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (New) The composition of claim 1 wherein
x/y is less than or equal to 8,
e + p is less than or equal to 20,
e/p is greater than or equal to 4, and
x + y is less than 40.

17. (New) The composition of claim 3 wherein

the vinyl esters is vinyl acetate,

the alkyl acrylates and methacrylates are methyl acrylates, ethyl acrylates and methacrylates, n-butyl acrylates and methacrylates, and 2-ethylhexyl acrylates and methacrylates, and wherein

the vinylaromatic monomers is styrene.

18. (New) The composition of claim 4 wherein

the other olefin is isobutene,

the vinyl esters of branched or unbranched, saturated monocarboxylic acids are vinyl propionate, vinyl "Versatate", vinyl pivalate, vinyl laurate,

the esters of unsaturated mono- or dicarboxylic acids having 3 to 6 carbon atoms with alkanols having 1 to 10 carbon atoms are methyl, ethyl, butyl or ethylhexyl maleates, or methyl, ethyl, butyl or ethylhexyl fumarates,

the vinylaromatic monomers are methylstyrenes or vinyltoluenes,

the vinyl halides are vinyl chloride or vinylidene chloride,

the diolefin is butadiene, and

the methacrylic acid amides is N-methallyl maleimide.